

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

As an initial matter, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the search and for the finding allowable subject matter. The Examiner has objected to claims 98 and 124 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims 98 and 124 have been amended as indicated by the Examiner, and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection - Matsuda

The Examiner has rejected claims 79-80, 82-83, 87, 89, 91-92, 94-95, 97, 102-104, 106-107, 109-110, 114, 116, 118-119, 121-122, 128-129, 131-133, 137, 139-141 and 143-147 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,847,374 issued to Matsuda.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified claims have either been cancelled or amended to depend from one of the allowable claims 98 and 124. Therefore, the rejection is believed to be moot.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection - Matsuda

The Examiner has rejected claims 81, 84-86, 93, 96, 99-100, 108, 111-113, 120, 123, 125-127, 135-136 and 149-150 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,847,374 issued to Matsuda.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified claims have either been cancelled or amended to depend from one of the allowable claims 98 and 124. Therefore, the rejection is believed to be moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the cited art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: March 15, 2007

By



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